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the actual construction of the canal. The original intention was to build the main line first but in 1827 this was completely changed by another act providing at the same time for a large number of lateral and local works. This was caused by local interests, sectional jealousies, and legislative log-rolling, and had the result of so hampering and delaying the construction of the main line that it was not completed until 1834.

Turning to the financing of these state works, the author points out the very inadequate provisions to meet the interest on the state bonds (due to the resort to every expedient but sufficient taxation), the complete failure of the works as a financial enterprise, and the consequent constant struggle to preserve the credit of the state. This is followed by an interesting account of the corrupt practices connected with the building and operation of these works in which there appears practically every form of corruption and graft with which we are so familiar in our own times, conditions such as lead to the conclusion that—

throughout the greater part of their history the public works were used by the political party in power as an invaluable instrument of political corruption, destroying the morals of citizens and squandering the resources of the state.

It was this evil together with the financial difficulties which started the movement ending in 1857-58, in the sale of all the state works at a great loss.

The Appendix contains a few official documents, and a number of financial tables, besides a bibliography. The author has based his investigation in the main on official documents. It has been carefully done, and the result is a chapter in our economic history which should prove very instructive reading to those now interested in the problem of government ownership.

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NOTICES

Les accidents du travail. Régime du risque professionnel. Exposé pratique de l'ensemble de la législation sur la matière. Par LOUIS ANDRÉ. Paris: Larousse. Pp. 126.

The author follows the course of legislation in France providing indemnity to wage-earners in case of accident, beginning with an exposition of the fundamental law of April 9, 1898, and including an account of the laws of June 30,

1899, and April 12, 1906. In an appendix is given the text of the laws, and of the decrees providing for their administration. The author's treatment is interpretative of the legislative provisions, and descriptive of the methods of administration. Comparatively little attention is devoted to consideration of actual experience under the laws, or to any critical speculation regarding the policy involved.

Dictionnaire des accidents du travail. Par VINCENT MARCAGGI ET ELIE GIRAUD. Paris: Larose et Tenin, 1907. Pp. 340.

In preparing this handbook the authors have undertaken to present in concise form such information regarding the operation of the French law providing indemnity to workmen in case of accident, as may be of service to those whose interests are affected. The arrangement of material is alphabetical. The liabilities and privileges of employers and employees are defined, and methods of procedure described. In an appendix is given a systematic exposition and commentary upon the laws of 1898 and 1906, an alphabetical list of trades covered by the laws, and a table of valuations of accidents.

Jahrbuch des Reichsverbandes der deutschen land-wirtschaftlichen Genossenschaften für 1906. Darmstadt, 1907. 4to, pp. 489.

This annual publication gives an excellent idea of the work being done by this extensive association with its membership of 1,500,000, in aid of the agricultural interests. It includes the yearly report of officials, the proceedings and addresses at the annual meetings, and statistics of the dairying, marketing, savings and loan and other associations.

Money Hunger. By HENRY A. WISE WOOD. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908. 8vo, pp. 144.

This "study of commercial morality in the United States" is a very timely and vigorous moral protest against the worship of Mammon and the failure to inculcate higher ideals which have resulted in such a debased moral tone as is found in the business world of today.

The Rise and Progress of Poverty in England. By W. G. WILKINS. London: Headley Brothers [1907], 8vo, pp. 82.

The author has chosen some eighty events in English history from the Norman Conquest to modern times and has condensed each into a disjointed account of one page, apparently attempting to show that the growth of poverty is due to a vicious system of landownership which drives the laborer to the city and fails to make the landlord pay the taxes.

Commentary on the Science of Organization and Business Development. By ROBERT J. FRANK. Chicago: Chicago Commercial Publishing Co., 1907. 8vo, pp. 204.

This volume is an attempt "to present a brief discussion of important practical questions arising in the promotion, organization, and conduct of private business corporation." It differs from other books of similar character in being comparatively brief and simple, rather less comprehensive in scope, and with

but slight detail; while no attempt is made to discuss principles of law laid down or to substantiate them by citation of authorities or cases. Illinois law receives special notice.

The South Americans. By ALBERT HALE. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1907. 8vo, pp. 361.

The subtitle adds that this volume is "the story of the South American republics, their characteristics, progress and tendencies; with special reference to their commercial relations with the United States." It is written in a readable manner and sympathetic attitude by one who is familiar with the subject through long association and residence, but is devoted almost exclusively to an account of the great East Andean republics—Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Venezuela. There are chapters on the "Geography," "History," "Government," "The People," and "Present Conditions," for each of these countries, which contain much interesting general information, social and economic concerning these too-little-known South American neighbors.

American Business Enterprise: A Study in Industrial Organization. By DOUGLAS KNOOP. Manchester: The University Press, 1907. 8vo, pp. xi+112.

This volume is No. 8 in the "Economic Series," of the Publications of the University of Manchester, as well as the "Fifth Gartside Report," and is an account of the general impressions gathered by the writer during a stay of some nine months in the United States and Canada, spent for the most part in the larger cities of the East. In Part I, which is mainly descriptive, the author discusses the causes of the success of American industrial and commercial undertakings, and concludes by attributing this success mainly to the comparative equality of opportunities, the absence of class distinctions, and the importance attached to higher commercial education. Part II, comprising about two-thirds of the volume, is a study of the structure of modern industrial and commercial undertakings, in connection with which the author considers the scale of production, integration, different methods of marketing products, the position of the middleman, and the control of retail prices by the producers. The report is intended for the general reader, and, as the author says, is essentially a sketch. Occasionally there are interesting suggestions of the contrast between American and English conditions.